



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Esh
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/724,336	11/29/2003	Mark A. Howard	142.009US01	9977
34206	7590	06/23/2005	EXAMINER	
FOGG AND ASSOCIATES, LLC P.O. BOX 581339 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55458-1339			DONOVAN, LINCOLN D	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2832		

DATE MAILED: 06/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/724,336	HOWARD ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Lincoln Donovan	2832	

— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address —
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 April 2005.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-43 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 7,9,19-32,42 and 43 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-6,8,10-18 and 33-41 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 03-14-05.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Claims 7, 19-32 and 42-43 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected claimed species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 04-07-05.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the first and second excitation windings having coils arranged about first and second axes must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New

Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

Claim 4 is objected to because of the following informalities: in line 4, "provide" should be corrected as --- provided ---. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 17, line 5, there is no antecedent basis for "the first axis" or "the first sine coil."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-6, 8 and 33-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brosh [US 4,253,079] in view of Hasegawa et al. [US 4,959,631].

Regarding claims 1-2, 6, 8, 33 and 35-36, Brosh discloses a man-machine interface [figures 4-5] comprising:

- a planar substrate assembly including at least one planar substrate [21-23] having conductive tracks [15, 16] to form a magnetic field formed thereon in at least two planes;
- a mounting [40, figure 6] carrying an intermediate magnetic coupling element [51] allowing movement of the coupling element along a measurement direction transverse to the planar substrate in response to a user interaction; and
- a detector [43] operable to detect the position of the coupling element within the magnetic field.

Brosh discloses everything claimed except the planar assembly being formed as a single substrate.

Hasegawa et al. disclose a single magnetic substrate having a magnetic field generator formed of a plurality of planar layers having conductors thereon [figure 19].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the substrate design of Hasegawa et al. for the substrate of Brosh, in order to reduce space and simplify construction.

Regarding claims 3 and 34, Brosh discloses each of the layers having an aperture formed therethrough aligned with the measurement direction.

Regarding claims 4 and 36, Brosh discloses a printed circuit board supporting the detector within the mounting [figure 6].

Claims 10-11, 12-13, 14-15, 16-18 and 37-41 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brosh, as modified, as applied to claims 1-6, 8 above, and further in view of Ely et al. [US 6,489,899].

Regarding claims 10, 13-14, 18 and 37, Brosh discloses everything claimed except the magnetic field generator comprising a transmit aerial and a detector aerial.

Ely et al. disclose a position detector having receive windings [B] and detector windings [151].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that the magnetic field generator of Brosh, as modified, could include transmit/receive windings, as suggested by Ely et al., in order to determine the position of the coupling member.

Regarding claim 11, Brosh discloses the use of first and second excitation windings [figure 5].

Regarding claims 12, 15-17 and 38-41, Ely et al. further teaches the signal processor using measurements and comparisons of the sine/cosine to determine the position.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

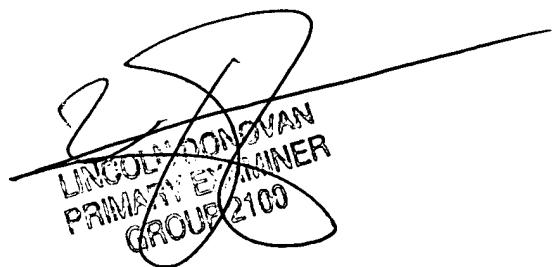
Dames et al. [US 5,815,091] and Fushida et al. [US 3,819,025].

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lincoln Donovan whose telephone number is 571-272-1988. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Enad Elvin can be reached on 571-272-1990. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

lde



LINCOLN DONOVAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 2100